

## BISHOPS TO DEBATE DIVORCE IN SECRET

Episcopalians at Denver Vote to  
Consider Birth Control Also  
in Closed Meeting.

### STRICTER CANON PROPOSED

Action on Resolution by Fiske  
to Bar All Re-Marriage Is  
Blocked by Perry.

### CHURCH BAN ON WAR ASKED

Oldham Pleads for Arbitration and  
Arms Cut—Women Raise  
\$1,000,000 Fund.

From a Staff Correspondent of The New  
York Times.

DENVER, Sept. 17.—The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, in triennial convention here, will meet on Saturday behind closed doors to consider birth control and divorce.

The secretary of the house, all other attendants and the press will be barred from this meeting, but it was voted to suspend rules so as to admit to it Bishop Michael Bolton Furse of St. Albans, England, who asserted in the opening services here yesterday that "the whole Christian ethic" is founded on the relationship of the sexes, and who led the unsuccessful opposition to birth control at the Lambeth Conference last year.

The meeting, known technically as a meeting in council, will "consider certain matters growing out of Lambeth Conference," which was attended by sixty bishops of the American Church.

In proposing the secret meeting Bishop Irving P. Johnson of Colorado said that the American delegates to the Anglican conference had been "embarrassed when certain matters were found to be up for consideration," but that they "could not very well get up and leave."

The fact that rules of order have been suspended to admit Bishop Furse indicates the importance attached to the question of modern tendencies in the sex relationships. The written text of his sermon asserted that these relationships were not only the foundation of the "whole Christian ethic," but "the social order built thereon."

Bishop Furse said later he was convinced of the truth of this latter assertion, but had omitted the phrase from his address because, on second thought, he did not think the opening service appropriate for its expression.

Blocks Early Debate on Divorce.

The question of divorce almost

marriage and sex of the Lambeth Conference and who is said to have "walked out" of one of the meetings there; the Rev. Dr. Howard C. Robbins, former dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, and the Rev. Dr. Caleb R. Stetson, rector of Trinity Church in New York.

#### Asks Rule on "Head of Family."

Consideration of family affairs was not confined to the House of Bishops. In the House of Deputies, the Diocese of Western Massachusetts introduced a resolution similar to that of Bishop Fiske, in that it called for elimination of all provisions for remarriage of the divorced. Like all other matters coming up in the early part of the convention, it was referred to a committee.

The deputies also heard a resolution, offered by the Rev. J. W. Sykes of Corpus Christi, Texas, asking that a commission be appointed to determine the question, which is the head of the family, the husband or the wife?

Aside from the Church's own commission, the nature of whose intended report is fairly well known, every move regarding family relations that has been made at the convention so far has been directed at making the Church's official attitude on marriage and divorce stricter rather than more liberal.

In view of the distinctly liberal tendency of the Anglican Church, as indicated in the results of the Lambeth conference, Saturday's secret meeting is regarded as having unusual significance for the continuance of cooperation and good-will between the Anglican and American Episcopal Churches.

No one, so far as has yet been learned, is planning an open repudiation of the stand of the Lambeth Conference, and it is known that the majority of the Bishops are anxious to avoid open hostility; but, in the course of the sessions, with any one of the 650 delegates empowered to arise and submit a resolution along this line, there is no assurance that such hostility will not come out into the open.

#### Resolution Asks Arms Reduction.

Regarded as more important at the present time than matters of family relationship is the economic situation, both of the individual and of the country, but as yet the convention has not got beyond appointing committees and introducing impressively phrased resolutions.

Bishop Perry announced this morning the appointment of seven Bishops to a committee, to include also seven laymen and seven priests, to delve into questions of international peace and of prevalent lawlessness. The appointees are Bishops James E. Freeman of Washington, Benjamin Brewster of Maine, Charles Fiske of Central New York, Edward L. Parsons of California, G. Ashton Oldham of Albany, William Scarlett of Missouri, and Henry K. Sherrill of Massachusetts.

In a resolution introduced by Bishop Oldham the Bishops were asked to affirm that "war as a method of settling international disputes is incompatible with the mind and purposes of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

It went on to say that, "in the case of any nation which has bound itself by pact or treaty to settle its disputes only by pacific means, we hold that the Church in any country should not countenance any war in relation to which its own country has not agreed to submit such difference to arbitration or conciliation."

"The present state of armament throughout the world is a serious menace to world peace, besides imposing needlessly heavy burdens on the people of the world."

"We call on our government to make every effort by example as well as precept, to secure further reduc-

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### Blocks Early Debate on Divorce.

The question of divorce almost came out into the open this morning when Bishop Charles Fiske of Central New York endeavored to anticipate the report of the church's joint commission on that topic, which has been studying it for six years, by introducing a resolution on the subject.

Presiding Bishop Perry ruled that the resolution, containing a proposed amendment to Canon 43 on divorce, could be referred to the committee on canon law without being read before the house.

Replying to inquiries, Bishop Fiske told a reporter that the amendment would incorporate the "better features" of the commission's report. The report itself, portions of which have been made public or leaked out, was likely, he said, to go down to defeat and it was his desire to preserve certain of its proposals. His proposed amendment was drawn up by Charles L. Dibble of Kalamazoo, Mich., a lay doctor of canon law and deputy to the convention.

Found in the House of Deputies, Mr. Dibble readily produced a copy of the resolution, which was even more stringent than the present law of the church, which admits remarriage of an innocent party in a divorce granted for adultery.

If the resolution were adopted it would forbid divorced persons to marry under any circumstances, and would refuse them communion if they did marry.

The "better features" of the supposed report of the divorce commission, which it purported to incorporate, were the creation of a marital court, which would confine itself, however, to determining whether marriages could be "annulled" rather than ended by divorce, and provision of systematic "education" for marriage.

### Wickersham With "Liberals."

In the meantime the Commission on Divorce went ahead with its plans to submit a liberal report which seems foredoomed to rejection.

Among the members of the commission who met privately last night was George W. Wickersham, who is aligned with the "liberals" in advocating in each diocese a marriage court, that, if it saw fit, could permit marriages of divorced persons, no matter what the cause of divorce, by a priest of the Church and in the church.

While all proceedings of the commission are supposedly secret, the division between "liberals" and "conservatives," it was learned, is as follows:

**Liberals**—Bishop Herman Page of Michigan, chairman; Bishop William Scarlett of Missouri; the Rev. Dr. Frank Nelson of Cincinnati; the Rev. Percy C. Kammerer of Connecticut; John M. Glenn of New York; Coadjutor Bishop Cameron Davis of Western New York; the Rev. Dr. Frederick C. Grant, president of the Western Theological Seminary; Professor Joseph H. Beale of the Harvard Law School; Origen S. Seymour, chancellor of the Diocese of Long Island; Roland S. Morris, chancellor of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and former American Ambassador to Japan, and Mr. Wickersham. Professor Beale and Dr. Nelson are said to have been originally on the side of the "conservatives."

**Conservatives**—Bishop Paul Matthews of New Jersey, who was a member of the subcommittee on

the people of the world.  
"We call on our government to make every effort by example as well as precept, to secure further reduction of armament, especially at the approaching and possibly epoch-making disarmament conference."

### Deposed Bishop Asks Reinstatement.

The House of Deputies today referred to the House of Bishops, a petition for reinstatement from former Bishop William Montgomery Brown of Arkansas, deposed in 1925 on grounds of heresy. The Bishops are expected to consider this application Saturday when they hold their council meeting, but it is thought unlikely that they would consent to reinstatement until the former Bishop had recanted his doubt of the divine paternity of Christ.

In his petition, addressed to both houses, the deposed Bishop asserted that the Church Constitution provides for "an ultimate court of appeal," and asked that one be set up to rehear his case, provided that the convention itself is unwilling to reinstate him as Bishop.

### "Missal" Before Deputies.

Another matter of wide interest within the Church which came up today was that of the so-called "American Missal," an unofficial publication founded on the Book of Common Prayer and containing passages felt by the Low Church group to be objectionably High Church.

A resolution by Chancellor Seymour of Long Island called for a definition of a legal certificate of the Book of Common Prayer. Dr. L. M. Robinson of Boston, custodian of the prayerbook, is accused by some of having illegally certified that material appearing in the Missal represented accurately the Book of Common Prayer.

The thank offering was announced as \$1,080,105.00, collected during the three years since the last convention, as compared with \$1,101,450.40 which was received in 1928.

The figure was somewhat of a disappointment to the women's auxiliary, which had hoped to receive \$1,500,000.

At 7:30 o'clock this morning holy communion was celebrated in Municipal Auditorium for the presentation of the triennial united thank offering of the women of the church.

Lewis B. Franklin of New York was re-elected today treasurer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church.

### G. B. Porter Named by Radio Board

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The Federal Radio Commission today announced the appointment of George B. Porter of Des Moines, Iowa, as assistant general counsel to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Paul D. P. Spearman, who enters private law practice. Mr. Porter has been in the legal division of the commission since February.

### To Discuss Radio Copyright Fee.

*Special to The New York Times.*

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—The special copyright committee of the National Association of Broadcasters will meet with representatives of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in New York City on Wednesday, according to Philip G. Loucks, manager-director of the broadcasting association. The conference will deal with copyright license fees for broadcasting purposes.